(b) whether this subject was discussed during the three day Conference of Central Bureau of Investigation officers in New Delhi; and

(c) what other subjects were discussed and whether the conference accepted the suggestion for setting up of a federal investigation agency; if so, by when it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) During the Conference of CBI officers, held recently, the problem of investigating inter-State crimes was generally discussed, amongst other subjects pertaining to organisational matters of CBI. No conclusions were arrived at.

Achievements of Antarctica Stations

1613. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state what achievements have been made by India by the establishment of first two stations at Antarctica?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The establishment of year-round permanent research stations in Antarctica has enabled Indian scientists to gain first hand knowledge in the frontier areas of Antarctic research, especially in the fields of geology, geophysics, metereology, biology, oceanography, geomagnetism and atmospheric physics. The scientific investigations have enabled India to participate in the Antarctic Treaty system and to promote its goals. The knowledge gathered about this unique polar environment has also been utilised in the design and development of indigenous infrastructure, living and working facilities in Antarctica.

US Denial of Space Launch Vehicle Testing Equipment to India

1614. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bush administration has decided to ban export of space launch vehicle testing equipment to India, as it would find use in India's missile programme according to U.S. officials; if so, what alternative arrangements Government has made;

(b) whether Government have taken up the issue with the United States Government; if so, what is the response of U.S. in this regard; and

(c) what is the latest U.S. policy regarding transfer of high technology to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) Over the years, United States has been imposing restrictions on the export of sophisticated equipment and components needed for the development of space technology. Continuous attempts are made to identify alternate sources for such items and also accelerate building of indigenous capability, in all such areas to ensure that the programme is not affected.

(b) The issue concerning embargo has been taken up with the U.S. administration through Ministry of External Affairs and a mechanism evolved to deal with the clearances of sophisticated technology items, on a case by case basis. This has resulted in facilitating the export clearance of atleast some of the critical items/components from USA.

(c) The Department of Space has not sought transfer of any high technology from USA being fully aware of the gene-

ral atmosphere of embargos and restrictions which operate even for commercial procurement of the items.

Fortification of Common Salt with Proteins etc.

1615. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any research has been conducted by the research laboratories financed by Government to provide common salt, fortified with protein, vitamin and iodine, for the benefit of the common people affected by deficiency diseases;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what efforts have been made by Government to provide common salt, fortified with protein, vitamin, iodine etc. to the down trodden and economically weaker sections of the society, affected by deficiency diseases; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, whether Government would consider the desirability of making available common salt, fortified with protein, vitamin, iodine etc. at a subsidised and reasonable cost, within the reach of the common people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) The National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, had conducted research regarding double fortification of salt with iron and iodine.

(b) The National Institute of Nutrition has developed a successful formula to fortify salt both with iron (1/mg) and iodine (40 ppm). All laboratory studies on stability, bioavailability have been completed and field trials are being undertaken.

(c) While the edible salt for the entire country is being iodised by 1992 in a phased manner, distribution of double fortified salt shall be considered only after the results of field trials are assessed to be satisfactory.

(d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government of India.

Harassment of SC employees of Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy, Mussoorie

1616. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Scheduled Caste employees of Lal Bahadur Shastri Administrative Academy, Mussoorie, Dehradun made representation to Government against their harassment by the higher authority of the above Academy in 1988-89; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken on the said representation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir. However, some representations were received on behalf of workers of the Mess Committee, who are not Government servants, against the orders of termination passed against them.

(b) The Director of the Academy satisfied himself that proper procedure has been followed by the Mess Committee in terminating the services of the six employees.

Termination of Six Scheduled Caste Low paid employees of Lal Bahadur Shastri Administrative Academy

1617. SHRI HARI SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six low paid Scheduled Caste employees of Lal Bahadur Shastri Administrative Academy, Mussoorie, Dehradun have been terminated from their service this year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the terminated employees submitted any petition against their termination order?